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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention in one embodiment is a method for installing an operating system on a computer. The method includes generating an external configuration file containing information about a plurality of devices that might be associated with the computer; identifying a particular device associated with the computer, the particular device being one of the plurality of devices; installing a driver on the computer according to the information stored in the external configuration file and the particular device's identity; and installing the operating system according to information stored in the external configuration file and the particular device's identity.

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